

# CDC's HIV/AIDS Prevention Activities

As a part of its overall public health mission, CDC provides national leadership in helping control the HIV epidemic by working with community, state, national, and international partners in surveillance, research, prevention and evaluation activities. These prevention activities are critically important, as CDC estimates that between 650,000 and 900,000 Americans currently are living with HIV. Also, the number of people living with AIDS is increasing, as effective new drug therapies are keeping HIV-infected persons healthy longer and dramatically reducing the death rate.

## ***What is CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention strategy?***

CDC employs a comprehensive approach to preventing further spread of HIV and AIDS. Strategies include monitoring the epidemic to target prevention and care activities, researching the effectiveness of prevention methods, funding local prevention efforts for high-risk communities, and fostering linkages with care and treatment programs. CDC is working in collaboration with many other governmental and nongovernmental partners at all levels to implement, evaluate, and further develop and strengthen effective HIV prevention efforts nationwide. CDC also is providing financial and technical support for disease surveillance; HIV antibody counseling, testing, and referral services; partner counseling and referral services; street and community outreach; risk-reduction counseling; prevention case management; prevention and treatment of other sexually transmitted diseases that can increase risks for HIV transmission; public information and education; school-based education on AIDS; international research studies; technology transfer systems; organizational capacity building; and program-relevant epidemiologic, socio-behavioral, and evaluation research.

## ***How are CDC funds distributed?***

In fiscal year 1998, nearly 80 percent of CDC's HIV prevention funds were distributed externally through cooperative agreements, grants, and contracts, primarily to state and local agencies. The largest portion of CDC's HIV prevention resources is awarded to state, local, and territorial health departments. A large proportion of these funds supports more than 200 local and regional HIV Prevention Community Planning groups.

## ***How are prevention activities organized?***

Within CDC, HIV prevention efforts are primarily concentrated in two divisions of the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention—the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention—Intervention Research and Support (DHAP-IRS) and the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention—Surveillance and Epidemiology (DHAP-SE).

**DHAP-IRS** conducts behavioral intervention and operations research, evaluates these activities, and provides financial and technical assistance for HIV prevention programs conducted by state, local, and territorial health departments; national minority organizations; community-based organizations; business, labor, and religious organizations; and training agencies. The Division includes the following five branches:

- ▼ ***The Behavioral Intervention Research Branch*** applies current theory, practice, and empirical findings in designing and conducting research on state-of-the-art interventions to prevent HIV infection. Characteristics of the research include the use of formative studies to develop interventions, such as the examination of psychosocial and cultural determinants of risk behaviors, the collection and analysis of process and outcome data that includes both qualitative and quantitative measures, and the use of rigorous study designs to examine intervention effectiveness. Further, branch staff members assist in translating and replicating research findings for use in HIV prevention programs.
- ▼ ***The Community Assistance, Planning, and National Partnerships Branch*** provides technical assistance, policy guidance, and fiscal and human resources to 65 state and selected local health departments; 22 national and regional minority organizations; 10 national business, labor, and faith partnerships; and 94 community-based organizations to conduct HIV prevention services among high-risk populations.
- ▼ ***The Program Evaluation Research Branch*** conducts evaluation research activities that include studies to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of prevention strategies and programs; economic evaluations of HIV prevention, including assessments of alternative prevention strategies to encourage the best use of prevention resources; and development of both process and outcome measures that HIV prevention programs can use to assess their ongoing performance.
- ▼ ***The Technical Information and Communications Branch*** uses both electronic media and printed materials to communicate scientific, statistical, programmatic, and technical information on HIV/AIDS to health care professionals, public health officials, prevention partners, federal government officials, and the general public.
- ▼ ***The Training and Technical Support Systems Branch*** assists providers of HIV and AIDS prevention services in enhancing their own skills and improving their programs in three broad areas—training, technical support systems, and program development.

**DHAP-SE** conducts surveillance and epidemiologic and behavioral research to monitor HIV/AIDS-related trends and risk behaviors. The resulting data provide a basis for targeting prevention resources and evaluating programs. In addition to its activities in the United States, DHAP-SE is active in surveillance, research, prevention, evaluation, and technology transfer activities in developing countries. Within this division, there are five branches that either directly oversee research activities or support the implementation of research activities:

- ▼ ***The Epidemiology Branch*** designs and conducts epidemiologic and behavioral studies in the United States to determine risk factors, co-factors, and modes of transmission for HIV infection. It also evaluates appropriate biomedical interventions for preventing HIV infection or for preventing manifestations of AIDS. The Epidemiology Branch is involved in studies of the natural history of HIV infection, including manifestations of HIV disease in adults, adolescents, and children. The branch also designs and conducts research on the psychosocial, cultural, and contextual determinants of risk behaviors related to HIV transmission. Finally, the Epidemiology Branch conducts applied research, including activities that support vaccine trials, to assist in the evaluation of strategies, major activities, and policies.
- ▼ ***The International Activities Branch*** designs and executes epidemiologic and intervention studies of HIV infection and its associated illnesses in other countries in collaboration with host nations, the United Nations AIDS Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and numerous nongovernmental organizations. Its activities include epidemiologic studies of risk factors for AIDS and HIV transmission, studies of HIV genotypic variants, seroprevalence studies, and surveys and evaluations of AIDS prevention and control activities. The branch operates two field sites—in Bangkok, Thailand, and in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire—which conduct epidemiologic and prevention research.
- ▼ ***The Prevention Services Research Branch*** conducts research to develop and improve HIV prevention strategies. This includes conducting studies (1) to identify and evaluate specific at-risk populations, (2) of the determinants of risk for HIV infection in specific populations, (3) of HIV counseling and testing activities, and (4) of HIV genotypic variations and antiretroviral drug resistance. This branch also is responsible for collecting data on the extent of HIV prevalence and incidence in the United States, for assisting other Centers within CDC to evaluate new HIV-related tests, and for maintaining a repository of stored sera and cells for studies of HIV infection.

- ▼ ***The Statistics and Data Management Branch*** provides data management and statistical support for HIV/AIDS surveillance, HIV serosurveys, epidemiologic studies, and other studies conducted within the two divisions; creates mathematical models to project the incidence of AIDS and HIV infection; and develops, monitors, and evaluates projects to construct mathematical models of the spread of AIDS and HIV infection and other HIV and AIDS studies. The branch also provides national leadership in the development of statistical and data management planning, policy, implementation, and evaluation.
- ▼ ***The Surveillance Branch*** conducts surveillance of HIV infection and AIDS in coordination with State and local health departments to provide population-based data for research, evaluation, and prevention; maintains, analyzes, and disseminates information from the national confidential registry of HIV/AIDS cases; monitors HIV-related morbidity and mortality and the use of PHS recommendations for prevention and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS; and conducts population-based surveillance of HIV-related risk behaviors in coordination with state and local health departments.

### ***What other CDC offices conduct HIV prevention activities?***

Additional HIV prevention, education, and research programs are conducted in other CDC centers, institutes, and offices.

- ▼ ***The National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID)***
  - < NCID's Division of AIDS, STD, and TB Laboratory Research provides laboratory research on HIV and laboratory support for the surveillance, epidemiologic, and clinical activities of NCHSTP. It also conducts laboratory and epidemiologic studies of HIV-infected and uninfected persons with hemophilia and assists in the design, implementation, and evaluation of prevention and counseling programs for them and their families.
  - < The Hospital Infections Program, also located in NCID, assists the U.S. Public Health Service, state and local health departments, hospitals, and professional organizations worldwide in the prevention and control of nosocomially acquired HIV infection.
- ▼ ***The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)***
  - < The Division of Adolescent and School Health, NCCDPHP, provides support to national, state, and local education agencies and other organizations with the capacity to address adolescent health to assist them in identifying and preventing HIV risk behaviors among youth.
  - < NCCDPHP's Division of Reproductive Health conducts epidemiologic, applied behavioral, and operations research on the prevention of HIV in women at risk for both HIV and unintended pregnancy.
- ▼ ***The National Center for Environmental Health's Clinical Biochemistry Branch*** operates a multi-component quality assurance program for laboratories testing dried blood spots for HIV antibodies, provides method development and analytical services for the measurement of zidovudine and other antiretroviral drugs in epidemiological studies, and provides consultative services for emerging concerns in laboratory quality assurance.
- ▼ ***The National Center for Health Statistics*** collects HIV/AIDS-related data in many of its data systems, including HIV-related deaths from the National Vital Statistics System, use of health services from the National Health Care Surveys, and data on HIV-related knowledge and HIV testing behaviors from the National Health Interview Survey and the periodic National Survey of Family Growth.
- ▼ ***The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's HIV Activity*** focuses on developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies for the prevention of occupational transmission of HIV, with special emphasis on personal protective equipment, engineering controls, and evaluation of organizational and behavioral factors that influence prevention strategies.
- ▼ ***The Public Health Practice Program Office*** strengthens the community practice of HIV/AIDS prevention by developing and delivering training, improving the quality of clinical laboratory testing, developing computing and telecommunications tools, and conducting research into effective public health practice.

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*For more information...*

**CDC National AIDS Hotline:**

1-800-342-AIDS

Spanish: 1-800-344-SIDA

Deaf: 1-800-243-7889

**CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN):**

P.O. Box 6003

Rockville, Maryland 20849-6003

1-800-458-5231

**Internet Resources:**

National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/nchstp.html>

Divisions of HIV/AIDS Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv>

NPIN: <http://www.cdcpin.org>